## NEW URBAN NEWS

September 2004 Vol. 9. No. 6

## Walgreens adapts to a Greek Revival village

hen Walgreens anticipated it would have a hard time gaining permission to build a drugstore at the main intersection in Poland, Ohio, the company sought advice from a longtime local resident, Robert A. Mastriana. Mastriana, an architect and a consultant to the village's Architectural Review Board, told the chain that it would have to build something far better than its usual store. The 2,900-person community several miles south of Youngstown previously prevented a Rite Aid from being built on the prominent albeit bedraggled site, and resistance to national chains has continued to run strong in the two-century-old village.

In the end, Mastriana, an admirer of northeast Ohio's Greek Revival architecture, donated his time to design a Walgreens building that would make the heavily trafficked location more attractive. The design won approval from the Board of Appeals and is now under construction by Visconsi Companies. The Walgreens building stands just 20 feet back from the road, helping to define the streetwall, and it has suggestions of Greek Revival style, "which is Poland," according to Mastriana.

The chain prohibited any deviation from its typical interior layout, "We could not after the footprint of the store," says Mastriana, design partner in The 1M Company in nearby Boardman Township. However, Visconsi Companies, which has erected about 40 Onio Waldreens stores, allowed Mastriana.



Rendering of Poland's Walgreens building

## GREEK REVIVAL TOUCHES FOR LIBRARY

The Walgreens is only the latest effort to maintain the coherence of Poland, a town with its roots in the early nineteenth century. The still-admired Greek Revival buildings also provided inspiration for Mastriana and his company about four years ago when they designed a new \$6.8 million facility for the Poland Public Library. The 35,000-square-foot library project could have overwhelmed its neighbors on South Main Stoot, but Mastriana fit the building in by breaking the







